

# **The Northeastern California Tribal NAGPRA Coalition**

## **Mission Statement**

The Northeastern California Tribal NAGPRA Coalition (NECATNC) is a culturally based organization that strives for the return of certain Native American cultural items—human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony—to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Indian tribes that are currently held in federal, state, private and international collections throughout the nation and world.

## **Purpose**

The NECATNC recognizes that the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was enacted to remedy a long history of horrific treatment of Native American human remains and cultural items, which unfortunately continues to this day. The NECATNC has been established as a unified body that acknowledges all Northeastern California Tribes are related and provides assistance to Northeastern California Tribes to secure repatriation of cultural items of our people by uniting Tribes on repatriation issues to prevent competing claims.

Northeastern California Tribes have always acknowledged our shared group relationships and common ancestry, and since the beginning of time have shared our aboriginal territory. The NECATNC claims a shared group identity and recognizes that Tribes are the sole and final authority to identify and determine the disposition of any and all human remains, items of cultural patrimony, and sacred objects. Understand that it is our inherent cultural responsibility to defend the sacred burial sites of our ancestors and relatives. The NECATNC is guided by the traditions and customs of our people and we rely on the guidance and teachings of our Tribal Elders and Spiritual Leaders on the appropriate manner to handle all cultural issues.

The NECATNC is dedicated to joint deliberation and tribal consensus and shall address mutual concerns relevant to the execution of repatriation issues involving common boundaries, joint use areas, and common lines of descent for determining cultural affiliation. The NECATNC recognizes that each and every Northeastern California burial must be returned immediately to our people regardless of their age or location. We are opposed to all scientific study and testing on all human remains and/or cultural items and we request every appropriate agency enter into necessary agreements with Northeastern California Tribes concerning the implementation and completion of NAGPRA issues. Each agency must recognize that all material and information concerning ancestral human remains, cultural material, and sacred sites remain confidential at all times.

Finally, the NECATNC will serve as a clearinghouse for all Northeastern California Tribes promoting the understanding of the NAGPRA law and Tribal rights, promote Tribal advocacy for Northeastern California issues, and implement public education regarding spiritual beliefs of the indigenous Northeastern California People to maintain cultural traditions and customs.